The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY : : : : IS A NATION'S GREATEST ASSET.

Can't-strike advocates talk of loss of wealth and suffering when workers quit their employment, but no mention is made of a greater loss when men are denied the right to strike.

Strikes are costly, but social injustice is a thousand times more so.

Material loss, through strikes, is nothing compared to a nation's loss when it compels the victims of wrong to remain at their tasks.

The worker who is bludgeoned into silence against injustice is a liability. He may profess patriotism, but his song differs from the inspiring challenge of men who are actually free.

The can't-strike advocate is only interested in wealth, production and convenience. He worships before this trinity and is blind to his country's danger when its wage workers lose their democratic ideals.

Wealth and convenience are nothing to the worker who resents a life of serfdom, a tyrannic boss and unsatisfactory wages and working conditions. That worker puts freedom above all else.

To tell him he can not quit his employment together with his fellow workers—that he can not strike—is to destroy his faith in American ideals.

This loss to a nation can not be recompensed by wealth, or by production and the public's convenience and ease.

No nation can be great that destroys ideals, stifles hope and deadens the sense of justice.

Sympathy for the oppressed and resistance to wrong are characteristic of free men. They refuse to count cost in their fight for right.

In all ages this spirit has impelled men to resist injustice. This spirit has made possible the liberties now enjoyed by man.

Can't-strike advocates would destroy this spirit. They would make America's finest asset a national liability. They would change their country's inspiring battle cries to the bargain counter question, "What will it cost?"

They would remove every ideal, sympathetic instinct, daring aspiration and loyal impulse from men who would own themselves.

To perpetuate injustice they would debase the highest ideal that lovers of liberty possess and would handcuff their country's defenders to the machine of production.

A CONFUSED PATROIT.

Baltimore, April 16. — Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, is engaged in a newspaper controversy in this city over the seamen's law, which his opponent declares makes it possible for foreign seamen to sign at their home port for lower wages, and then they may desert on their arrival in this country if they are not paid the prevailing wage.

"This is equalization of wages, with a vengeance, isn't it?" is the triumphant query of the foe of the seamen's law.

"My opponent does not mean to argue in favor of foreign vessels, but unfortunately he does," replies Furuseth, who asks:

"Does he think it wrong for the United States to decline being the slave catchers for foreign ship owners, when the people of the United States declined some 60 years ago to be the slave catchers for each other? Does he really think that the United States ought to use its police power to keep the wages of an English or a Norwegian ship, hiring coolies in India or China at $9 a month, which is about one-tenth of the wages paid on American vessels? Is he really willing that such an English or Norwegian vessel shall be assisted to keep such a crew on board while she is carrying away freight that would otherwise go in American vessels?

"He says there are hundreds of American vessels idle in American harbors. So there are Italian vessels, Spanish vessels, English vessels, millions of tons of shipping idle in the harbors. It is usually thought that that is the result of the war and of peace and not of the seamen's act."

ROADS VIOLATE LAW.

Chicago, April 16.—The New York Central railroad is another corporation that has been notified by the railway labor board that it must obey the law before it can reduce wages. This concern, like others, would reduce wages and ignore section 301 of the Cummins-Esch law that the railroads so insistently demanded "to stop strikes." This section provides:

"All such disputes shall be considered and, if possible, decided in conference between representatives designated and authorized so to confer (by those) directly interested in the dispute. If any dispute is not decided in such conference it shall be referred by the parties thereto to the board, which, under the provisions of this title, is authorized to hear and decide such dispute."

NEW LABOR INJUNCTION.

Minneapolis, April 16. — Judge Molyneaux seems to have made a new record in labor injunctions by ordering a member of the Milk Wagon Drivers' union to cease delivering milk in a part of the city that the Standard Milk company declares is its "property."

The unionist was formerly employed by the company and was forced to sign an individual contract not to join a union while so employed or deliver milk on the route in question. Several other milk concerns compelled its employes to sign the same contract, the form of which is identical. The inevitable strike followed and now the unionist is debarred from earning a living in that part of the city which the company stakes off as its personal "property."

WILL NOT BE BULLIED.

Cincinnati, April 16.—"The organized railroad employes are not going to be bulldozed and ruled by any industrial overlord of the Afterbury stripe," declares the Railway Clerk.

"Railroad labor will not permit wage reductions to add to the swag of men responsible for the financial condition of the roads.

"Never was there a more vicious and insidious attack made against the workers in any industry. When the railroads passed their pet transportation act they didn't anticipate they would have so much trouble juggling wages. Hampered by the law of their own creation, they are leaving nothing undone to carry out their original program."

"LOYAL" TO WHOM?

Sacramento, Cal., April 16.—Opposition to the proposed eight-hour law for street car employes was voiced by a delegation representing employes of the Los Angeles street car company. These non-unionists were announced as "loyal" employes.

In urging the passage of the bill, the senator read letters from street car men wherein they stated that they had been compelled to protest against the bill.

ASSAILS TAFT'S TAX VIEWS.

Washington, April 16.—Ex-President Taft does not understand the proposed sales tax, according to Congressman Frear, of Wisconsin. The former chief executive advocates a tax on each purchase as a substitute for the excess profits tax.

"Mr. Taft's public statements," said the congressman, "show utter lack of understanding on the subject he is discussing. For nearly two months hearings have been held by the house committee on ways and means. One brief week was given to the turnover sales tax people from New York, who have been urging that proposition before our committee, and it is significant that all sales tax advocates now desire to force the passage of that act upon the people before it can be fully understood or discussed. Without exception they are demanding revenue first.

"Mr. Taft says the sales tax is 'easily collected.' Treasury officials squarely deny that statement, and point to the evasions of the luxury tax as evidence of actual experience.

"The ex-president makes the astonishing statement that 'neither party to the sale feels resentful that he is paying the tax.' Through what source could he have secured such a fanciful opinion before the tax has been tried."

SALES TAX OPPOSED.

Philadelphia, April 16.—A 1 per cent sales tax would increase the cost of living, instead of reducing costs, and would also cause endless confusion, declares Fayette R. Plumb, former president of the American Hardware Manufacturers' association, writing in a local newspaper.

The sales tax is advocated by interests that oppose the present excess profits tax.

"It is perfectly true," said Mr. Plumb, "that a man with an income of less than $1,500 per year would pay this tax at the same rate as the man with an income of $150,000 per year. Is this a fair measure, however, of the ability of these men to pay taxes? The man with $1,500 spends all or nearly all his entire income for the necessities and moderate comforts of life. The man with an income of $150,000 per year may spend $50,000 of it. One man would be paying a tax on his entire income and the other on one-third of his income."

TOO MANY LIFE BOATS.

Detroit, Mich., April 16.—Opposition to the seamen's act was registered by a conference of business men from cities along the great lakes. The usual fire alarm resolutions urged congress to repeal the law instanter if the lake passenger business is to be saved from ruin and decay. One of the grievances is the cost in maintaining life boats. The law does not compel life-saving apparatus for every passenger who sails on these inland seas, but the provisions as they exist are too expensive, saith these business men, who insist that the life boats take up too much room and interfere with revenue-producing passengers.

RESIST NON-UNION SHOP.

Boston, April 16. — Organized blacksmiths, drop forgers, and helpers held a conference in this city on threatened wage reductions and the non-union shop. Every New England local of this international was represented, and the unionists perfected plans for a vigorous offensive movement. The delegates reported that the non-union shop agitation had failed to affect the morale or the numerical strength of the union.

RAISE FARES; CUT WAGES.

Sioux City, Iowa, April 16.—The local street car company has called on its platform men to accept wage reductions. Recently the city voted favorably on a request by the company to raise fares for three years so that the wage scale now in force could be met.

Now the company wants to reduce wages, but makes no reference to lower fares.

SOFT DRINK WORKERS OUT.

Detroit, Mich., April 16.—More than 500 employes in local beverage plants have been locked out because of their refusal to accept the nine-hour work day and wage cuts of from $6 to $12 a week. The men involved are brewery workers, bottlers, drivers, machinists, engineers and firemen.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Detroit, Mich., April 16.—Culinary workers in this city are preparing to enforce the eight-hour day in the very near future.

Employers Always Insist That World Stands Still.

Employers have constantly predicted that ruin would come on the great industries of the country if workmen were better paid and better treated. They resisted, and have resisted up to the present day, every demand which workmen have made for the right of association, for the limitation of children's and women's labor, for the shortening of all hours, for the abolition of truck, for the protection of their workmen's lives and limbs from preventable accidents, and are now appealing to the doctrine of liberty of contract, after for centuries having denied the liberty.—Thorold Rogers, in "Six Centuries of Work and Wages."

Colorado Supreme Court Will Not Yield Its Power

Denver, Col., April 16.—Like all other courts, the state supreme court of Colorado will not voluntarily yield any of its power, and therefore rules that the recall-of-decisions law, passed in 1912, is unconstitutional.

The recall law prohibited trial courts from declaring either state laws or city charter provisions unconstitutional. If such action were taken, the law gave the people the right to recall the decision.

The supreme court set the law aside, and gave notice that its only superior is the United States supreme court and that no one else has the power to review its decisions.

The court also set aside the Colorado anti-coercion law, which forbids an employer from discharging a worker who belongs to a legitimate labor organization, fraternal society or any body of a lawful nature. This decision was made in the case of commercial telegraphers who were victimized by the Western Union Telegraph company three years ago.

In this case the court followed similar decisions by the United States supreme court, which has ruled in the Adair and Coppage cases that an employer can discharge a worker for any reason or no reason.

URGE NEW LABOR POLICY.

New York, April 16.—The labor policy of railroad managers is not producing results, and a change is necessary, according to Haley Fiske, president of a nationally-known life insurance company which has $32,000,000 invested in New York Central railroad stock.

In a letter to A. H. Smith, president of the railroad, Mr. Fiske says, in effect:

"We have watched the rail managers' attack on the railroad unions, and you have been defeated. We took no part in the contest, but now we find that the unions have the roads on the defensive and our stock is liable to depreciate in value because of a hostile public opinion. It is time you changed tactics and indicated a conciliatory disposition, for if you don't our stock will decrease and while your bondholders will be protected, through first mortgages on Central property, the stockholders will lose. We were silent until we discovered you were playing a losing game, but now we insist that our interests be protected."

DON'T WANT WHITE MEN.

Prescott, Ariz., April 16.—The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad is being given publicity throughout the southwest because of an "employ-no-white-men" order by officers of its Phoenix division.

The order is issued to foremen of laborers and construction groups. These foremen are notified that "white men now in the service will be allowed to remain in the service, but under no consideration should any more white men be hired by you.

"These instructions appear to be very definite and concise, but they must be followed closely. Failure to comply entirely and exactly with these instructions will result in severe discipline to the foreman concerned."

To date no objection to this order has been registered by "100 per cent Americans," who talk of "dangers that beset democratic institutions."

WAGE CUTS NO SOLUTION.

Washington, April 16.—The best proof that the wage slashing policy of railroads has failed is a statement issued by the national association of owners of railroad securities in which it is stated that wage reductions will not solve the railroads' troubles. This is opposite to the claims of the railroads, whose backers first demanded the Cummins-Esch law, then the Warwick law, and now wage cuts.

The association of security owners insists that the railroad question should be investigated. In line with this policy Senator Cummins announces that he will urge an investigation of the entire railroad subject.

TEACHERS NOT LABORERS.

Hartford, Conn., April 16. — A teacher is not a laborer, according to Judge Maltbie, who denied that teachers employed by an educational concern now in the hands of a receiver have a wage lien on the property.

The court said that the law was intended "to make the way easier for the worker who lives each day almost within that day's wage, and is, unfortunately, often not provident in his outlook to the future."

SCHOOLS NOT PARTISAN.

San Francisco, April 16.—The state board of education has refused to rescind its order that the circulation of literature in the public schools by an anti-union organization be prohibited.

The antis wrap themselves around the flag and call themselves the "better American federation," but this cheap attempt at patriotism has proven unavailing.

TAX EXEMPTION IS AN AID.

New York, April 16.—It is stated that during the first five weeks after the tax exemption ordinance was effective in this city building increased 76 per cent, as compared with the same period a year ago. The exemption ordinance was passed by the city council and applies to buildings erected within a specified period.

FORMER U. S. WARS BROUGHT HIGH PRICES

New York, April 16.—High prices, deflation and panics followed the war of 1812 and also the civil war, says Ralph G. Hurlin, department of statistics, Russell Sage foundation, writing in the Annalist, published in this city.

Through a series of charts and tables Mr. Hurlin shows a close analogy between the price situation that exists now and after the other wars. One diagram shows a similar height of the price level after the two earlier wars and after the late war.

"The three wars," he says, "mark the beginning and end of two complete major economic cycles in this country. Each cycle consists of a long phase of declining prices following a great war and of a shorter phase of rising prices which ends in each instance with a rocketing of prices during another war period. It is an interesting circumstance, moreover, that the two cycles are of approximately equal length.

"The diagram showing the course of wholesale prices over the two complete and similar cycles emphasizes the fact that the normal reaction to extreme war inflation is rapid partial deflation, followed by long-continued, slower decline in prices. In both the previous instances these declines were marked by frequent, and in some cases long, periods of business depression. Without greater control of monetary and trade conditions than was exercised in the previous instances a repetition of the price movements which followed 1814 and 1864 might be expected now.

"The effective control of the monetary system which the government now possesses lies behind the belief that deflation and price decline can be so regulated as to avert repetition of the long phase of falling prices."

WHY CONFAB FAILED.

Rockford, Ill., April 16.—Glaring headlines in newspapers in this city and vicinity announced that a conference would be held under the auspices of the builders' association, and responsibility would be placed for the present building stagnation. The sponsors for the plan declared that "the fur will fly," and the public would be told who the guilty parties are. Numerous contractors were interviewed, as were material men, and all demanded a show-down. At the first conference labor was represented in surprising numbers. And worse yet, labor presented a program of action, which included a resolution in which the workers courted full investigation and demanded that the same policy be applied to other interests. The resolution was embarrassing, but the conference passed it, and the conference adjourned with the newspapers dropping the subject. Some local unionists hint that the stage was set for blaming labor for present conditions, but the workers' demand for a full investigation spoiled the game.

URGE P. O. CHANGES.

Washington, April 16.—Officials of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks conferred with Postmaster General Hays on plans to redress grievances of these employes. The memorial presented by the unionists include such subjects as special clerks, night clerks, scheme study, seniority rating system, efficiency rating system, recognition of organizations, overtime, sanitation, promotions following demotions, vacation pay refunds, weekly pay day, extension of holiday benefits and reinstatement of dismissed employes.

The postmaster general referred to several cities where conditions must be improved. These included Chicago, Boston and New York. He admitted that he was not acquainted with details of the post office to pass judgment on the employes' specific requests and suggested that he be given time to study them before expressing an opinion.

WILL REVIVE ALIEN BILL.

Washington, April 16.—The immigration restriction bill that was passed in the closing days of the last congress and killed by a pocket veto, will be reintroduced at this session of congress. Advocates of the bill declare that it will pass in practically the same form.

The bill provides that the number of aliens of any nationality who may be admitted in any one year shall be limited to 3 per cent of the number of foreign born persons of such nationality resident in the United States, as determined by the census of 1910, and that later the number of aliens of any nationality who may be admitted in any one calendar month shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total number of such aliens admissible in that fiscal year.

TAX LAWS INEQUAL.

Seattle, April 16.—Tax provisions of the state constitution are a relic of the eighteenth century, when everyone was on the land, declares Professor Laube of the University of Washington. The constitution provides for a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation on all property in the state.

"This provision," said Professor Laube, "is the most serious obstacle in the way of taxation reforms; in fact the constitution must be amended to secure reforms."

PRINTERS MAKE GAINS.

Sapulpa, Okla., April 16.—The 44-hour week will be established in the composing rooms of local printing offices without friction on May 1. An agreement signed by employers and the Typographical union calls for the short work week and a wage of $45 for day work and $48 for night work.

LABOR'S MEMORIAL DAY.

Washington, April 16.—The fourth Sunday in May—May 22, this year—is labor's memorial day. The A. F. of L. has designated this time as a day upon which to pay tribute to the memory of those whose lives have been given to the service of the labor movement.

FAVOR LONG WORK DAY.

Canton, N. C., April 16.—The Champion Fibre company is attempting to re-establish the 11 and 13-hour work day. Trade unionists throughout the state are developing a public opinion against the abandoning of the shorter work day by this concern.

PRIZE ESSAY SHOWS WRONGS OF P. O. MEN

Washington, April 16.—The wrongs of post office employes are concisely stated in a prize essay contest conducted by the Union Postal Clerk on "If I Were Postmaster General."

Out of more than 200 contestants the judges awarded first prize to Dennis A. Shea, New Bedford, Mass., letter carrier, who wrote:

"Service and not surplus would be my aim. The service would be properly manned and rendered sufficiently attractive to insure recruiting of competent employes. Co-operation would be invited.

"Strict observance of eight-hour law. Reduction of unnecessary night work; time differential for night work. Would consult with representatives of postal organizations more; humaneness in carrying out laws. As better results can be obtained by fairness than by tyranny, and as greater production and more satisfactory work comes from workers who are led than from workers who are driven, I would be democratic, not autocratic; considerate, not coercive; human, not tyrannical.

"Would work for a court of appeals to safeguard the rights and liberties of employes who are now at the mercy of unfair methods of tyrannical inspectors and supervisory officials from whose arbitrary judgment there is no appeal. No discrimination against employes in promotion.

"Would abolish the cumbersome, slow and inefficient closed pouch system and restore the old-time, speedy distribution of railway postal clerks. Would restore the numerous mail cars and crews that were abolished in recent years.

"As business cannot run smoothly when the service fails, and a theory of economy that curtails service to build a surplus at the loss of millions to business interests is shortsighted, my remedy would be a constantly expanding service that would quicken the wheels of commerce and maintain rapid communication at the lowest possible cost.

"As the present chaotic conditions in the service are the result of trying to place in effect impracticable theories of incompetent inspectors, with little technical training or knowledge of their work, I would do some housecleaning in that department."

WIRELESS TO FARMERS.

Washington, April 16.—Market reports to farmers by wireless is another "visionary" scheme that has been proven practical by the department of agriculture. Post-office wireless stations are used.

Each station has a radius of approximately 300 miles and farmers located in 12 central and 10 eastern states are able to obtain either directly, or through local wireless receiving agencies, information relative to prices and conditions at the leading agricultural market centers and shipping points the same day that business is transacted, and in some instances immediately after the close of the market. The department will perfect organizations so that every farmer in the territory covered may receive the information as soon as possible after its receipt by the operator. These reports will be telephoned to farmers direct, furnished to newspapers, filed with local telephone exchanges and posted on railway, postoffice and other town bulletin boards.

PROBE IS DANGEROUS.

Philadelphia, April 16. — In the financial column of a local newspaper is printed this significant statement from New York under the heading "Wall street gossip:"

"In certain conservative quarters intimations have been received from Washington sources that the general situation of the railroads is likely to get worse before it gets better. It is suggested that the congressional inquiry is to be a real investigation and that some disclosures may result which will not tend to enhance the value of certain railroad stocks.

"It is understood that changes contemplated in the transportation act of 1920 will eventually prove of great benefit not only to the carriers, but will give renewed assurance for the future to holders of railroad securities."

The writer does not state what benefits will accrue to the workers.

MANY IDLE FREIGHT CARS.

Washington, April 16.—The largest number of idle freight cars in the history of American railroads are clogging sidings throughout the country, according to the March report of the American Railway association. A total surplus of 495,904 cars were idle on March 31, the report states. This is an increase of 32,000 cars within a month. Of the total surplus slightly more than one-half, or 255,055, consists of coal cars, compared with 172,850, on March 1. A steady decline in the number of coal cars loaded is reported, which extends also to cars loaded with regular freight.

"COMPANY" UNION FUNCTIONS

Seattle, April 16.—The "company" union, known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, is functioning to the entire satisfaction of lumber barons. Wage reductions are being accepted without protest, and it is stated that the legion voluntarily suspended its scale at Walville, this state.

The legion has received numerous blessings from employers who insist that this is the "ideal union."

WANT LONGER HOURS.

New York, April 16.—The high price of print paper does not satisfy manufacturers, and they ask employes to cut wages 30 per cent and lengthen the work-day from eight hours to nine. At a conference in this city representatives of the interested unions rejected the plan and perfected an organization to resist the demand.

HIGH COAL PROFITS.

New York, April 16.—The high price of coal, especially last winter, is recalled by the annual report of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal company. Last year was a record one. Profits increased from $3,805,486 in 1919, to $6,672,522 in 1920.

REJECT WAGE CUT.

Cincinnati, April 16.—Organized cigar makers in this city have rejected the bosses' suggestion that wages be cut 25 per cent.

FIRST THINGS FIRST IS LABOR'S POLICY

Washington, April 16. — "The ground work principle of America's labor movement has been to recognize that first things must come first," writes President Gompers, in American Federationist, current issue.

"The primary essential in our mission has been the protection of the wage worker, now; to increase his wages; to cut hours off the long workday, which was killing him; to improve the safety and the sanitary conditions of the workshop; to free him from the tyrannies, petty or otherwise, which served to make his existence a slavery. These, in the nature of things, I repeat, were and are the primary objects of trade unionism.

"Our great Federation has uniformly refused to surrender this conviction and to rush to the support of any one of the numerous society-saving or society-destroying schemes which, decade by decade, have been sprung upon this country. A score of such schemes, having a national scope, and being for the passing day subject to popular discussion, have gone down behind the horizon and are now but ancient history. But while our Federation has thus been conservative, it has ever had its face turned toward whatever reforms, in politics or economics, could be of direct and obvious benefit to the working classes. It has never given up its birthright for a mess of pottage. It has pursued its avowed policy with the conviction that if the lesser and immediate demands of labor could not be obtained now from society as it is, it would be mere dreaming to preach and pursue that will-o'-the-wisp, a new society constructed from rainbow materials—a system of society on which even the dreamers themselves have never agreed."

MINE DEATH RATE DROPS.

Washington, April 16.—Substantial reduction of the death and injury rate in coal and metal mines of the country is shown in a statement issued by the bureau of mines in which the safety work of that governmental department is reviewed.

From a rate in 1911 of 4.71 deaths for each 1,000 men employed there has been an almost unbroken decline to a rate of 3.23 per 1,000 in 1919, the statement said.

The bureau has 10 specially equipped Pullman cars engaged in transporting its training crews from mine to mine. Besides training the miners in rescue work, the wives and children of the miners are taught first aid.

The increased output of mines, especially of coal, in recent years, has been produced with little increase in the number of miners, although the personnel is not nearly so skilled in mining as 10 years ago, it is stated. This condition makes necessary added precautions against accident.

UPSET JURY SYSTEM.

Charleston, W. Va., April 16.—Every liberal-minded citizen in this state is protesting against a recent law passed by the legislature which upsets the American jury system by permitting jurors from counties outside of the county of the accused to serve as jurors in criminal cases. The statement is not denied that special interests rushed this law through the legislature because of the approaching trial of Sid Hatfield and others charged with the murder of seven Baldwin-Felts detectives at Matewan, last May. The accused were acquitted of the death of one of the detectives, and they are to be tried on other indictments. Under the new law jurors can be secured from counties outside of Mingo county, the home of the defendants.

At a conference of trade unionists, in this city, the workers declared that "the law presents opportunities for hand picked juries and frame ups."

THIS STORY NOT TOLD.

Cleveland, April 16.—Trade unionists show that a slating contractor bought slate at $11.25 a square with the understanding that there would be no sale unless he charged $23 a square for putting it on.

"Let's see, what is it that makes building high—oh, yes, it's the high cost of labor, isn't it?" is the comment of Charles Smith, business representative of the building trades council.

"This seems like a pretty good argument when we go to talk to the employers," said Smith, "but the unfortunate part of the business is that this is not the kind of a story which the anti-union campaigners are feeding the public. They conceal a story of this kind."

NEW CONGRESS CONVENES.

Washington, April 16.—A special session of the sixty-seventh congress, elected last November, convened on April 11. According to the constitution this congress does not meet in regular session until the first Monday in next December, but it has been called in special session by the president to consider needs that have grown out of the war.

It is stated that this congress has the largest list of new members ever seated in a new congress. Another record is broken in the size of the majority of the party in power.

A FAMILIAR STORY.

Birmingham, Ala., April 16.—Chambers of commerce in this state are urging employers to re-employ members of the state guard who have been on strike duty in the coal region for the last seven months. When the soldiers were called out they were praised without stint by those who have now replaced them. Many of these soldiers are unemployed.

OPPOSING INJUNCTIONS.

New York, April 16.—At a conference with trade unionists in this city, President Gompers discussed plans to combat the labor injunction, and to aid the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union in its fight against employers who are using the writ on every and all occasions.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Bridgeport, Conn., April 16.—The annual convention of the Connecticut state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Monday, June 6.

Business Men Are Warned by Clergyman

New York, April 16.—Business men are attempting to function in every field but their own, declared Rev. Chas. D. Williams, Episcopal bishop of Michigan, in a sermon in this city. The clergyman declared that all efforts of American business men to run the government and to fight for the non-union shop will inevitably plunge the country into revolution.

"The United States today," he said, "is in control of an invisible government. We are in a reign of commercial conscience and the rule of the American business man. I respect the American business man in the field in which he belongs, but I will not concede or admit his leadership in economics, politics, sociology, and particularly in education and religion.

"America's soldier dead cry out for the realization of the vision for which they fell, while we are threatened with a regime of reaction."

That the business men of this country fail to grasp this is certain, the clergyman declared. He said he was amazed, when the war ended, when he attended a meeting of business men and heard the sentiment cheered that now that the war was over it was time to give up the high ideals and dreams "which were simply used to sustain the energies of the masses throughout the struggle and get down to business propositions."

"The attempt of the business world to establish the non-union shop is a movement simply to crush labor," said Bishop Williams.

"But this attempt," he continued, "is as futile as sitting on the crater of a volcano. It will simply turn into a sudden revolution because they attempt to stifle the equality of opportunity.

"Conservatism and reaction are prevalent in our country today. Business men are seeing red. They commenced seeing red with their drive on radicalism. They branded every one who had a progressive thought as a parlor bolshevist and persons have been secretly arrested by paid spies on manufactured information and often deported without cause."

Bishop Williams said he investigated several such cases himself in Detroit and found that the supposed radicals were but simple, ignorant foreigners unaware of what was being done to them.

He said press associations have distorted the facts, and that industrial leaders are trying to stem the tide of industrial evolution, but their chances of success would be greater if they attempt to suppress a tidal wave.

DID NOT WANT STRIKE.

London, England, April 16.—In contradiction to the wild claims made by opponents of the coal miners and the trade union movement in general, the Manchester Guardian declares that the miners did not want to strike, and that they suspended work only when they were forced to.

The Manchester Guardian is one of England's leading publications, and is noted for its temperate tone.

"The stoppage will be to the miners the most unwelcome that has ever occurred," says this paper, which declares that "nobody this time can accuse them of having struck wantonly or lightheartedly."

"When they struck last autumn it may not have been with exuberance—nobody particularly enjoys being deprived of three-quarters of his income on the off chance of making it up later on—but at any rate with determination and a good deal of confidence that they would win.

"In the present case the miners feel that they are driven to it, and that their case is a desperate one either way."

EIGHT HOURS FOR FIREMEN.

St. Louis, April 16.—By a majority of 60,000 citizens have voted an eight-hour day for municipal firemen. The ordinance was initiated by the local unit of the International Association of Fire Fighters, and received the solid support of organized labor.

Washington, April 16.—St. Louis is the fourth city to favor the eight-hour day for municipal firemen, according to officers of the International Association of Fire Fighters. The first city is Cleveland, followed by Toledo, Ohio, and Hibbing, Minn.

Attempts are made in Cleveland to nullify the law by coercing the firemen to work 12 hours. The circuit court ruled that eight hours is the limit for a day's work, but this was reversed by the court of appeals, which holds that men may "volunteer" for longer hours. The case is now before the state supreme court.

OPPOSE INJUNCTIONS.

Washington, April 16.—The use of the injunction in labor disputes should be abolished, was the verdict of judges after a debate between Georgetown university and Lafayette college. The university opposed the injunction. This team held the debate to a discussion of fundamentals, and continually insisted that the injunction writ be used only for its original purpose—the protection of property and property rights where the plaintiff has no remedy at law. They insisted that labor is not property, and quoted Blackstone and other legal authorities, who defined property as "the sole and despotic dominion which one claims and exercises over the external things of the world in total exclusion of the right of any other individual in the world."

MAKE JUICY PROFIT.

Newark, N. J., April 16.—In opposing a wage cut, suggested by building contractors, the building trades council declared in favor of work suspension rather than reduce living standards.

One delegate was quoted as stating that there are contractors in this city "who have made a profit of $22 weekly on a single building trades mechanic." The unionist said contractors have made a profit of $5 a day on bricklayers by paying the workers $10 a day, while informing the owners that they were compelled to pay $13 in order to justify their charge of $15 a day for each man in their employ.

OPPOSE MINE CLOSING.

Hazelton, Pa., April 16.—Organized anthracite mine workers are resisting the attempt of the Jermyn Coal company to cut wages in violation of an agreement. The firm suspended operation and notified employes that work would be resumed if they would accept lower rates. The company is a party to the agreement under the anthracite wage commission's award, which is in force until March, next year. The miners say that this concern is the first in the hard coal section to attempt wage reductions.

PUBLICITY FOR COSSACKS.

Charleston, W. Va., April 16.—Big business in this state is financing a publicity service to create a public opinion in favor of more cossacks. Free "boiler plate" is furnished country newspapers, and the yarns spun around this strike-breaking machine would lead the unsophisticated to believe that all the cossacks needed is a pair of wings.

MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 16.—By a vote of 513 to 6 employes of the Hazard Manufacturing company refused a wage cut and suspended work. The management declares that the machinists would willingly accept lower rates, but "their leaders" advised them not to.

WILL STICK TO AWARD.

Birmingham, Ala., April 16.—Coal miners in this state agreed to accept the award of Governor Kilby in their strike, and they will abide by that award, though it be most distasteful.

The above is a summary of a statement made by a committee of members of the international executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, which came to this city to investigate conditions growing out of the recent strike of Alabama miners.

"The committee recognizes that the representatives of the United Mine Workers of America entered into solemn agreement to submit all the issues involved in the present unhappy situation to the governor of Alabama for settlement, and to abide by his decision. We recognize this as an obligation which must be fully discharged and an agreement backed by the honor of the union which must be faithfully observed," it is stated.

"It is unfortunate that the governor of Alabama did not take advantage of the opportunity presented to him to lay down a fundamental basis which would guarantee permanent and abiding peace in the coal mining industry of this state. By so doing a plan of co-operation between employer and employes, of mutual helpfulness, of industrial understanding and the honorable adjustment of grievances which might arise could have been formulated."

RECLASSIFY EMPLOYES.

Washington, April 16.—Organized federal employes are backing a bill that will reclassify employes in the federal civil service. It is sponsored in the senate by Mr. Sterling of South Dakota and in the house by Mr. Lehlbach of New Jersey. The bill does not affect postal employes, whose wages were reclassified last June.

The bill would modernize Uncle Sam's employment policy and standardize wage rates, with opportunity for promotion on the merit basis that will open, in the language of Senator Sterling, "clear to the top of the service."

The wage scale fixes pay by the skill and training required for the work, with a minimum rate of $1,080 a year and the $240 bonus absorbed into the base pay. Equal pay and equal opportunity for promotion, irrespective of sex, is provided, as is opportunity for advancement of pay within a grade, according to efficiency.

INSURANCE AIDS STRIKES.

Washington, April 16.—Insurance against strikes, which is being advertised in Baltimore, will foment strikes, said Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president.

"When an employer is insured against strikes he will not be inclined to go far in making concessions to employes, however just their demands may be," said the trade unionist.

"Insurance companies writing strike insurance would be but another factor to add to the obstacles to peaceful adjustment of labor troubles. Labor can not be expected to support companies that are working against it, and if these companies persist in their efforts to make such insurance legal, organized labor will lend its efforts towards state insurance companies."

PAINTERS MAKE GAINS.

Rock Island, Ill., April 16.—Painters are successfully resisting the attempted wage cut of contractors. The painters suspended work and many of the employers have ignored the edict of the master painters' association and signed with their employes. The workers' solidity made this possible.

Duluth, Minn., April 16.—Painter contractors declared for the non-union shop when their organized employes refused to cut wages from $1 an hour to 80 cents.

DEFEAT CAN'T-STRIKE PLAN.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 16.—The Iowa legislature has adjourned without passing the Kime can't-strike bill. Another vicious proposal that met the same fate would permit trade unions to be sued, just as is incorporated bodies now are. Under this plan every member of a union would be liable for the act of any other member during strikes. It would put the spy and private detective in clover and the property of every unionist would be jeopardized.

BRINGS LAW IN CONTEMPT.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 16.—In signing a bill which again permits the sale of cigarettes to adults in this state, Governor Kendall said:

"The disregard of a restrictive law because it is unpopular entails discredit upon all laws of similar character."

PASS CHILDREN'S BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 16.—The state legislature has passed a bill which makes it a misdemeanor for landlords to discriminate against tenants with children.